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Dell Unveils Plans for Tablet Computer

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Dell Inc. unveiled a touch-screen tablet computer called Streak, as the computing giant made its much-anticipated foray into the emerging tablet arena that has been pioneered by [Apple Inc.](#)

The computer maker introduced the device in the U.K., where it will be available at wireless operator O2's stores and other outlets by early June. The Round Rock, Texas, company said it plans to make the tablet available in the U.S. later this summer, though no specific date was given. **Dell** didn't provide pricing information.

The Streak, which **Dell** unveiled in January, is a tablet with a five-inch screen based on [Google Inc.](#)'s Android operating system and uses an ARM-based processor called Snapdragon from [Qualcomm Inc.](#) The Streak, which will be able to connect to wireless Internet and 3G cellular networks, is smaller than Apple's iPad, which has a 9.7-inch screen.

"It's curious that they're doing a 5-inch form factor, which is half the size of the iPad," Kaufman Bros. analyst Shaw Wu said. He speculated that **Dell** may be aiming for lower price points and production costs.

Pricing for the Streak will be announced closer to launch, an O2 spokesman said.

Roger Kay of Endpoint Technologies Associates said the Streak seems targeted for a "slightly different audience" than the iPad, given the different size. "The Streak is closer to a phone in size and can go anywhere with the user," he said. "It has some of the same touch commands as the iPad, but can be used for more specific functions, like navigation."

Ron Garriques, president of **Dell**'s communication solutions group, said in a statement the device "hits the sweet spot between traditional smart phones and larger-screen tablets."

PC giants led by **Dell** and [Hewlett-Packard Co.](#) have been widely expected to enter the growing tablet market, which took off after Apple introduced the iPad in the U.S. in April. The iPad goes on sale in the U.K. and select countries outside the U.S. Friday.

Earlier this year, H-P announced plans to introduce a tablet device, dubbed Slate, based on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system. But analysts have speculated that the Palo Alto, Calif., company is taking a different path after announcing its plan to buy Palm Inc., which would give H-P access to the smart phone maker's operating system